

## COMPACT Act — Companion Animal Protection Against Cruel Testing Act

**The Problem:** Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), spending by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on animal research (across all species) was estimated to be between \$11-12 billion for FY23-24 and \$10-11 billion for FY25.<sup>1</sup> Though no authoritative species-specific accounting exists, more than \$100 million of that amount is believed to be spent each year on research involving live dogs and cats.<sup>2</sup> But dogs and cats are not miniature humans; they differ in physiology, metabolism, genetics, immune response, and disease progression. Every dollar spent on dog or cat experiments is a dollar not spent on human-relevant research that can save patients' lives.

**The Solution:** The COMPACT Act will end all direct and indirect HHS spending on live animal research on dogs and cats, except for research intended to improve dog or cat health. It applies to the full cost of research, including acquiring, breeding, transporting, housing, and experimenting on dogs and cats, as well as costs for personnel, facilities, equipment, and overhead. The COMPACT Act also closes loopholes by preventing institutions from charging the federal government for experiments on dogs or cats that were privately purchased, or shifting research activities to contractors, affiliates, or foreign entities. It contains a narrow waiver for public health or national security emergencies when no scientifically valid alternative is reasonably available.

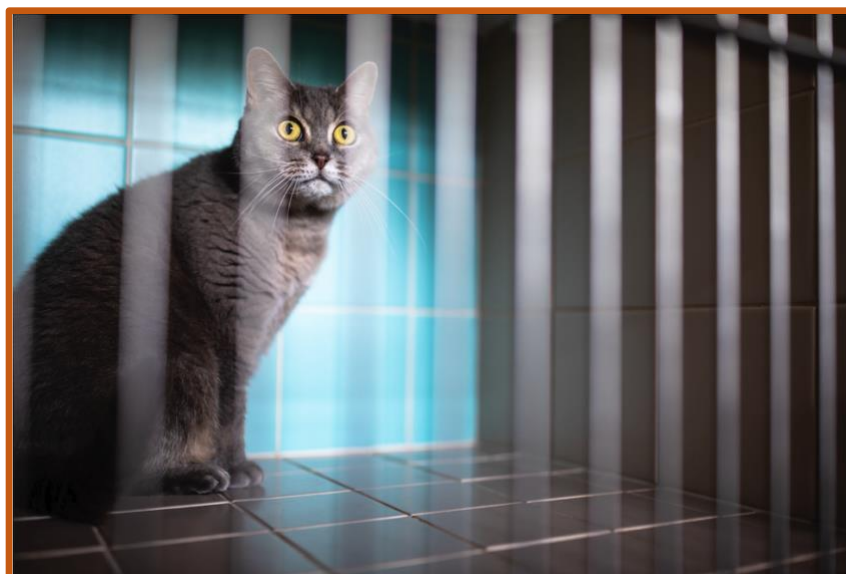
### Other Key Provisions:

- Enforcement through clawbacks and withholding of future funds.
- Suspension or debarment for knowing or repeated violations.
- Whistleblower protections.
- Six years of recordkeeping required by funding recipients.
- Annual reporting to Congress by HHS on implementation.
- Independent GAO review.



<sup>1</sup> Analysis by Zaher Nahle, Ph.D., M.P.A., senior scientific advisor, Center for a Humane Economy, and principal, Ivictory Solutions LLC, applying the revised methodology described in U.S. Government Accountability Office report GAO-25-107140 (reissued Jan. 29, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> Fox6 News Milwaukee, "Ridgland beagle rescue signals animal testing shift in America," May 10, 2026: <https://www.fox6now.com/news/ridgland-beagle-rescue-signals-animal-testing-shift-america>



### Three Reasons to Co-Sponsor the COMPACT Act

1. **The shift is already underway.** NIH has stopped issuing new funding opportunities devoted exclusively to animal models, established a new Office of Research Innovation, Validation, and Application (ORIVA) to accelerate human-based research, and in 2026 it committed more than \$150 million to develop and scale animal-free new approach methodologies (NAMs).
2. **Science is moving beyond dog and cat models.** Dog and cat experiments account for a small and scientifically replaceable portion of federally funded biomedical research. Phasing out taxpayer support for them will not impede scientific progress; it will assist the transition NIH has already begun, allowing federal dollars to be better invested elsewhere. In an era of organoids, organs-on-chips, computational modeling, AI-enabled prediction, advanced imaging, and abundant real-world human data, it is difficult to justify subsidizing dog and cat studies.
3. **Private research would not be impeded.** The COMPACT Act does not prohibit privately funded research; it establishes priorities for federal research dollars. Those dollars are finite, and every penny should go toward human-relevant projects with the greatest promise for patients in need.